

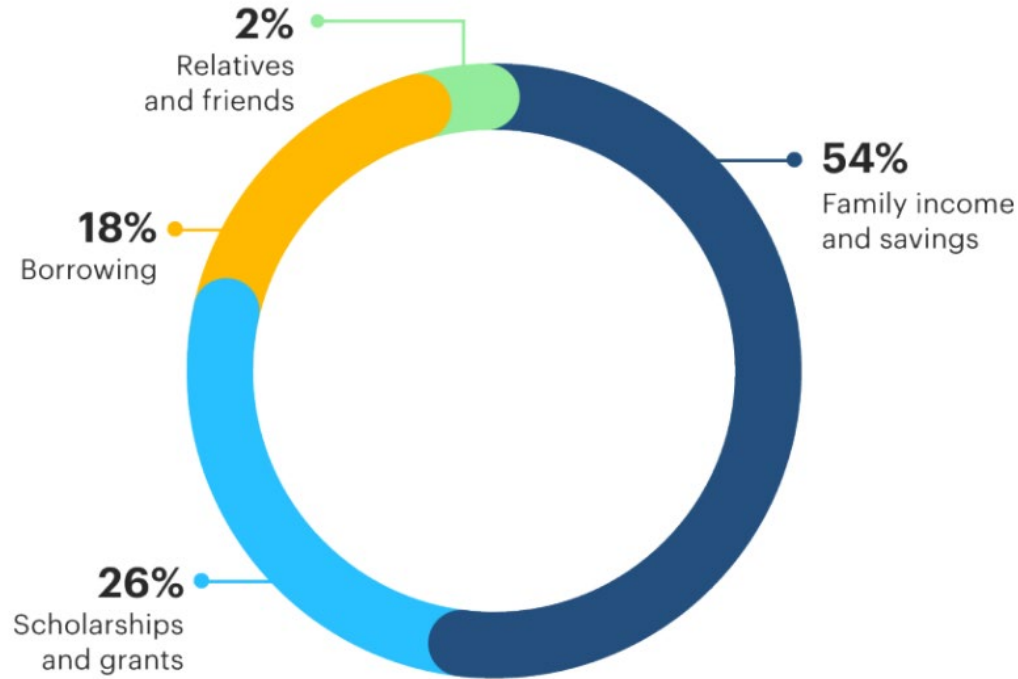
Paying for College



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How Americans Are Paying for College



What We Will Cover

- Understanding the costs of college
- Types of Aid
- Applying for Aid
- Understanding Offers of Aid
- Other ways to save



Understanding the Costs

Tuition, Cost of Attendance (COA), Net Price

Tuition: a sum of money charged for teaching or instruction by a school, college, or university

Cost of Attendance (COA): the **average** cost to attend a college or university for one academic year (fall through spring); including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses

Net Price: the total out-of-pocket cost that you will actually pay. Net price includes the amount the college expects you and your family to contribute, any financial need unmet by the college, and any loans or work-study earnings.

Understanding the Costs

In-State, Out-of-State, Private

In-state: Public universities within your state of permanent residence (UC's, CSU's, CCC's). You will pay a lower tuition at these schools than students from outside California.

Out-of-state: Public universities in states other than California. You will pay a higher tuition at these schools than students from their own state. Residency requirements vary by state. Always check to see what being a “resident” means to each school.

Private: Private universities do not charge tuition based on state of residence.



Understanding the Costs

Cost of Attendance by School Type

ADVERTISED COA VS AVERAGE NET PRICE

*Advertised Cost of Attendance numbers are from Scoir. These numbers do not include “other” fees. For example: class/school fees, books & supplies, personal expenses, transportation, etc.

Private School A	\$74k
Private School B	\$63k
Out-of-State Public A	\$35k
UC A	\$32k
Out-of-State Public B	\$30k
CSU B	\$22k
CSU A	\$21k

Understanding the Costs

Cost of Attendance by School Type

ADVERTISED COA VS AVERAGE NET PRICE

*Avg net cost numbers are from Scoir and assume a California resident with a household income of \$75-\$110K. These numbers do not include “other” fees. For example: class/school fees, books & supplies, personal expenses, transportation, etc.

	Advertised COA	Avg Net Cost
Private School B	\$63k	\$34K
Out-of-State Public A	\$35k	\$22k
CSU A	\$21k	\$21k
UC A	\$32k	\$19K
Out-of-State Public B	\$30k	\$17k
Private School A	\$74k	\$14k
CSU B	\$22k	\$13k

Understanding the Costs



NET PRICE CALCULATOR

Understanding Types of Aid

Merit vs Need

Need-based aid: Based on your demonstrated need (most grants, some scholarships, loans, work study)

Merit-based aid: Based on your grades, test scores, or other qualifications set forth by the grantor based on what you have accomplished rather than your family's financial situation (some grants, some scholarships)

Other outside aid: These are things like tuition discounts (WUE), employment benefits, additional scholarships, etc.

Understanding Types of Aid

Gift Aid vs Loans

Aid you do not have to pay back: Grants, Scholarships, and Tuition Discounts

Aid you do have to pay back: Loans

Aid you have to work for: Work Study

Applying for Need-Based Aid

The FAFSA

www.studentaid.gov

California State Deadlines

State Financial Aid Programs

For most state financial aid programs, submit your applications no later than March 2, 2026 (date postmarked).

Federal Deadline

June 30, 2027

College Deadline

Check with your school

Cal Grant

Cal Grant requires submission of a school-certified GPA by March 2, 2026.

California Dream Act

If you're a noncitizen without a Social Security card or had one issued through the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, fill out the *California Dream Act Application* at dream.csac.ca.gov. Contact the California Student Aid Commission at csac.ca.gov or your financial aid office for more information.

- Opens in October. Must apply each year
- Uses prior, prior year tax information
- Make sure you are applying for the school year when aid is needed (might not be the current year)
- Can send to up to 20 colleges*
- Undocumented? Look for state specific applications that may accommodate you (CADAA for California), and check in with the schools where you apply.



What do I need?

- Verified account username and password (FSA ID)
- Parent or spouse contributor's email address
- Income and asset information (if required)

Start a 2026–27
FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

TCU®

Applying for Need-Based Aid

The FAFSA

Parents' Marital Status	Provide Information for
Never married	Provide information about the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months. If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support you financially, provide information for the parent with the greater income and assets.
Unmarried and both legal parents living together	Both of your parents
Married	Both of your parents
Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)	Parent and stepparent
Divorced or separated	Provide information about the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months. If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support you financially, provide information for the parent with the greater income and assets.
Widowed	Your parent

Which Parent?



<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/fafsa-parent.pdf>

Applying for Need-Based Aid

Dependency Status

Here are the dependency questions for the 2026-27 school year FAFSA

Were you born before Jan. 1, 2003?	Yes	No
As of today, are you married? (Answer "No" if you are separated but not divorced.)	Yes	No
At the beginning of the 2026–27 school year, will you be enrolled in a master's or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?	Yes	No
Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)	Yes	No
Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?	Yes	No
Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?	Yes	No

At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)?	Yes	No
At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?	Yes	No
At any time since you turned age 13, were you in <u>foster care</u> ?	Yes	No
Are you or were you a legally <u>emancipated minor</u> , as determined by a court in your state of residence?	Yes	No
Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?	Yes	No
At any time on or after July 1, 2025, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?*	Yes	No

Applying for Need-Based Aid

Special Circumstances

- The family's financial situation has changed significantly since the year being reported on the FAFSA
- The parents' marital status has changed since the prior, prior year taxes were filed
- The parent does not intend to support the student through college
- A parent refuses to provide information or sign the FAFSA
- The student does not have a relationship with the parent or it is unsafe for the student to contact the parent

Applying for Need-Based Aid

Student Aid Index and Demonstrated Need

Student Aid Index (SAI): An eligibility index assigned based on information input in the FAFSA which helps calculate a student's need for financial assistance in order to attend college.

Financial Need/Demonstrated Need: the difference between the COA and your SAI.



Applying for Need-Based Aid

The CSS Profile

College Scholarship Service Profile, is an application provided by the College Board that some private colleges and universities use to assess student financial need for distribution of institutional funds.

Applying for Scholarships

From Universities

- Search the university's financial aid page.
- Read criteria carefully.
- Determine if the scholarship is competitive or automatic.
- Determine what is required to apply.
- Look closely at all deadlines, college app as well as financial aid.
- File the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile where applicable.
- Look for departmental scholarships.

Searching for Scholarships

Military Scholarships

- ROTC
- Transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits
- Fry Scholarship
- Yellow Ribbon Program

Check with veterans organizations and the college's Military/Veteran Office

Searching for Scholarships

Through Family, Community, and High Schools



- High School Programs
- Employers
- Insurance Companies
- Clubs & Organizations
- Church, Temple, etc.
- Professional Associations
- Alumni Associations

Scholarships

Database Websites



www.fastweb.com



www.scholarships.com



<https://www.raise.me/>

Scholarships

Fact or Fiction

Only the 4.0 GPA students
get scholarships.

FICTION – Scholarships have
all sorts of different criteria.



Scholarships

Fact or Fiction

There is a lot of money out there going unawarded.

FICTION – Most scholarships are highly competitive and scholarship committees work hard to advertise their scholarships so that they receive plenty of applications to choose from.



Scholarships

Fact or Fiction

I am not a minority and my parents make decent money. I'm not going to qualify for any scholarships.

FICTION – There are scholarships with all sorts of qualifying criteria. You just have to find them!



Scholarships

Fact or Fiction

If I apply to enough scholarships, I can easily fund my entire cost of attendance.

FICTION – Scholarships rarely cover the entire cost of attendance for students.



Scholarships

The Truth

There are scholarships out there for just about everyone but there are many students fighting for that money, so you must jump in the mix!

Here is how:

Find scholarships that you meet the criteria for.

Apply by their deadlines.

Find more scholarships that you meet the criteria for.

Apply for those too.



Understanding Offers of Aid

Tuition and Fees	29400
Room and Board	10500
Books and Supplies	2500
Personal Expenses	1000
Transportation	600
Total COA	44000
SAI	9600
Calculated Financial Need	34400

	Fall	Spring	Total
University Grant	6000	6000	12000
Departmental Scholarship	2500	2500	5000
Outside Scholarship	500	500	1000
Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan	4200	4200	8400
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	1750	1750	3500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	1000	1000	2000
Federal Work Study	1250	1250	2500
Total Award			34400

Understanding Offers of Aid

Tuition and Fees	29400
Room and Board	
Books and Supplies	
Personal Expenses	
Transportation	
Total COA	
SAI	
Calculated Financial Need	34400

	Fall	Spring	Total
University Grant	6000	6000	12000
Departmental Scholarship	2500	2500	5000
		1000	1000
		1000	8400
		500	3500
		1000	2000
		500	2500
Total Award			34400

What does this really mean?

Total cost of attendance: **\$44,000**

Grant/scholarship money that does not need to be repaid: **\$18,000**

Total that your family will be responsible for paying (a combination of up front and as loans): **\$26,000**



Understanding Types of Aid

Loan Statistics

- 51.8% of undergraduate program completers use federal loans at some point.
- Bachelor's degree holders have an average federal student loan debt of \$21,566.
- Middle-income students are most likely to take out federal loans (71.8%)

Hanson, Melanie. "Student Loan Debt Statistics" EducationData.org, July 17, 2023,

<https://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-statistics>



Other Ways to Reduce Cost

- Live at home or with relatives
- Attend a school closer to home to reduce travel expenses
- Do not count out private or out-of-state schools! Use the net price calculator to check on savings from them.
- Attend community college then transfer
- Look for schools where your major/program is not impacted
- Attend summer school at local community college
- Earn college credit in high school: Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit, Other College Coursework, AP/IB Exams
- Accelerate the pace of coursework (extra classes during the semester, summer, or winter sessions.
- Consult a financial advisor to discuss options

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